

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 VO-03 L-03 PPT-01 SCA-01 CPR-01 /022 W
-----180643Z 084765 /17

R 171531Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4332
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARGUE
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
USMISSION NATO

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E.O.11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, CGEN, CPAS, CVIS, CSCE, GE, US
SUBJECT: EXTENSION OF VALIDITY OF DIPLOMATIC VISAS: GDR/US

REF: STATE 046297

1. ON MARCH 16, EMBOFFS CALLED AT CONSULAR DEPARTMENT MFA (SEIDEL AND WETTER) TO PROPOSE MUTUAL SIMPLIFICATION OF PROCEDURES THROUGH RECIPROCAL EXTENSION OF VISAS TO OFFICIALS COVERED BY OUR A, G AND C-3 NIV CATEGORIES (EXCEPT FOR A-3 AND G-5 CATEGORIES) USING POINTS MADE IN PARAS. 2 AND 3 OF REFTEL.

2. MRS. SEIDEL REACTED POSITIVELY AND GENIALLY, SAYING THAT ALTHOUGH SHE WAS NOT EMPOWERED TO ACCEPT THE PROPOSAL OFFHAND, SHE FELT HER AUTHORITIES SHOULD WELCOME THE PROPOSAL AND THAT SHE ANTICIPATED IT COULD BE ACCEPTED WITH DETAILS BEING WORKED OUT AS BOTH SIDES PURSUED THE MATTER. SHE REPEATED THIS
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THREE TIMES. SHE THEN RAISED CERTAIN QUESTIONS AND MADE COMMENTS:

A. SHE NOTED THAT SOME FEW HOUSEHOLD STAFF ASSIGNED TO BERLIN, E.G. EXCLUSIVELY HOUSEHOLD SERVANTS OF THE CHIEF OF MISSION, IF FOREIGNERS, ARE GIVEN SERVICE (GREEN) ID CARDS BY THE MFA'S PROTOCOL DEPARTMENT BECAUSE THEY VIEW AMBASSADORIAL RESIDENCES AS CLOAKED

WITH A VERY SPECIAL STATUS AS DISTINGUISHED FROM OTHER
DIPLOMATIC HOMES. WAS THERE A US EQUIVALENT TO THIS PRACTICE?
EMBOFFS INQUIRED IF IT WOULD EVER BE POSSIBLE THAT A BEARER OF A
GDR OFFICIAL PASSPORT COULD BE ASSIGNED TO WASHINGTON OR NEW YORK AS
HOUSEHOLD STAFF TO GDR DIPLOMATS. SHE AGREED RESEARCH THIS POSSIBILITY.

DEPARTMENT IS REQUESTED TO GIVE BACKGROUND ON WHETHER ANY OTHER
EMBASSY ASSIGNS SERVANTS TO THEIR DIPLOMATS, IF SO, HOW SUCH PEOPLE
ARE DOCUMENTED, AND HOW DEPT. OF STATE PROTOCOL DOCUMENTS THEM.
REGARDLESS OF ANSWER, WE BELIEVE SERVANTS IN A-3 AND G-5
CATEGORIES HERE SHOULD BE EXCLUDED FROM THIS EXTENSION AS
DEPARTMENT PROPOSES.

B. SHE REMINDED EMBOFFS THAT GDR DIPLOMATIC VISAS
TO FOREIGN DIPLOMATS WERE ISSUED INITIALLY BY GDR
EMBASSIES ABROAD FOR THREE MONTHS WITH ONE YEAR VISA
THEN ISSUED BY MFA AFTER ARRIVAL IN BERLIN. DID THE
PROPOSAL ENVISAGE THE GDR MFA EMPOWERING ITS EMBASSIES
ABROAD TO ISSUE DIPLOMATIC VISAS FOR PERIODS OF MORE
THAN THREE MONTHS DEPENDING ON DURATION OF ASSIGNMENT.
WHEN EMBOFFS SAID "YES", SHE SAID SHE DID NOT BELIEVE
THIS WAS IMPOSSIBLE BUT MERELY WANTED TO DEFINE THE
PARAMETERS OF THE PROPOSAL.

C. SHE AND WETTER BOTH EMPHASIZED THAT, IN ANY
CASE, GDR VISAS COULD ONLY BE VALID UNTIL ONE DAY BEFORE
EXPIRATION OF PASSPORTS IN WHICH THEY WERE STAMPED OR
INSERTED. (3(EMBOFFS CALLED THE ATTENTION OF THE GDR OF-
FICIALS TO THE NEW U.S. FIVE YEAR DIPLOMATIC PASSPORT.)

D. SHE ASKED WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF PERSONS ORIGINALLY
ASSIGNED TO EIGHTEEN MONTHS. WHAT ABOUT THE STILL VALID
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GDR VISA? SHE DID NOT WANT TO CANCEL DIPLOMATIC VISAS
IN DIPLOMATIC PASSPORTS BECAUSE OF THE "OPTICAL EFFECT".
WHAT ABOUT A LIMITING STAMP INDICATING THE NEW, CUR-
TAILED EXPIRY DATE? EMBOFF ENGAGED TO RAISE PROBLEM
WITH DEPARTMENT. NOTE: WE WOULD PROPOSE TO TELL THE
MFA THAT WE WOULD WISH TO LEAVE ANY SUCH EXPIRED
VISAS UNTOUCHED BECAUSE WE ASSUME THAT DIPLO-
MATS WOULD NOT MISUSE SUCH VISAS DURING THEIR
REMAINING LIFE AFTER DEPARTURE FROM POST. WE WILL DO
SO PROVIDED THEY ADOPT THE SAME PRACTICE. DEPARTMENT'S
APPROVAL FOR THIS POSITION REQUESTED.

E. MRS. SEIDEL SAID THAT SHE WAS ATTRACTED TO THE
IDEA BECAUSE RATHER THAN INDEFINITE VALIDITY. THE LATTER
CONCEPT WOULD HAVE BEEN VERY DIFFICULT FOR THE GDR TO
ACCEPT.

3. MRS. SEIDEL SAID SHE WOULD DISCUSS THIS PROPOSAL
WITH OTHER OFFICIALS AND GET BACK TO THE EMBASSY ASAP.
SHE ASKED HOW SUCH AN AGREEMENT COULD BE CONSUMMATED

IF IT WERE TO BE WORKED OUT IN ALL DETAILS. WHEN EMBAOFF
SUGGESTED EXCHANGE OF NOTES WITH U.S. DESCRIBING DE-
TAILS OF RECIPROCAL PROCEDURE AND GDR NOTE ACKNOWLEDG-
ING AND ACCEPTING PROPOSAL, SHE SAID THAT WOULD BE A
GOOD METHOD.

4. IF THE DEPARTMENT APPROVES AND AFTER ALL DETAILS,
INCLUDING THOSE POSED IN PARA. 2, ARE WORKED
OUT, EMBASSY WILL DEVELOP TEXT OF U.S. NOTE AND
SUBMIT IT FOR CONSIDERATION TO THE DEPARTMENT. POLANSKY

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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 17-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
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